

Mr. Ho

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*fred. M.*

20 January 1948

CHIEF, SERVICES BRANCH

CHIEF, CONTRACT SECTION

Discussions with Mr. L. King, Acting Chief, Foreign Buildings Operations, Department of State, Re: Establishment of FBIB Monitoring Station on the Island of Cyprus.

The undersigned accompanied by Mr. Lawrence Houston, General Counsel, called on Mr. Lyman King, Acting Chief, Foreign Buildings Operations, Department of State, on Monday, January 5, 1948, to discuss the following specific points with respect to the subject matter.

- A. Is the acquisition of land in foreign countries to be acquired only by or through the Department of State?
- B. Under what arrangements could the Department of State's facilities be utilized in the acquisition of land?

Mr. King in answer to question (A) above stated he knew of no restrictive legislation which would limit the acquisition of land in foreign countries to the State Department. Mr. King said, however, in the absence of specific authority to another Government agency, he did not see how land could be acquired other than by the Department of State. Mr. King said that normally the Department of State acquired land for all Government agencies. Mr. Houston said that our appropriation did authorize the purchase of land but it did not distinguish between domestic and foreign purchases. Mr. King replied that this determination was for consideration of counsel.

At this point Mr. King brought up the subject of purchasing land in this particular area through the use of surplus pounds sterling. This means of payment for the land could be handled by the Department of State with the Department of Treasury if CIA requested the Department of State to acquire the land.

Mr. King was informed of the mission of the impending CIA team to Cyprus. Mr. King felt this was the correct approach to the problem and that upon CIA's approval of the survey team's recommendation, with respect to the acquisition of land, the State Department would undertake the mechanics of acquiring the land through their regional office in Cairo.

In addition to the foregoing Mr. King said the Department of State could carry out the necessary construction if so requested. However, Mr. King stated that he felt our survey team could accomplish the construction program in a much more satisfactory manner since the regional office of the Foreign Buildings Operations in Cairo was not sufficiently staffed to undertake this phase of the project.

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